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A NEW SPECIES OF *LACTUCA* (ASTERACEAE) FROM KASHMIR, INDIA¹

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(With four text-figures)

Lactuca kashmiriana sp. nov., a new species allied to *L. decipiens* Clarke is described.

During the course of a revision of the subtribe *Lactuceae* in India, we examined some specimens which showed affinities to *Lactuca decipiens* Clarke in general habit of plant but on critical examination of specimens both at BSD and DD, proved that the specimens were of a new species, which is described here.

***Lactuca kashmiriana* sp. nov.**

L. decipienti Clarke affinis, sed differt bracteis involucribus exterioribus perbrevioribus, bracteis involucribus interioribus ad centrum fuscatis cum marginibus hyalinis; acheniis gradatim angustatis ad rostrum longum cum costis regularibus manifestis in dorso lateribus.

Herba perennis. Caulis ca 60-80 cm altus, erectus, glaber, sursum paniculatim ramosus. Folia ca 4-5 × 3-5 cm., numerosa e basi ad medium caulis, cum foliis minoribus ad axillas foliorum latiorum, folia inferiora et supramediana cum petiolis longis alatisque, membranacea,

cordata vel deltoidea, varie dentata, sagittata vel auriculata, supra acute serrata, ovata vel hastata. Inflorescentia paniculatim ramosa. Capitula ca 13-14 x 1-2.5 mm in ramis terminalibus, cernuis, angustis, cylindricis, 2-3 floris, pedunculus parvus, gracilis, glaber, nutans, flosculus ligulatus, ligula purpurea vel azurea. Bractee involucrales exteriores ca 1-1.5 x 0.5-1 mm, ovatae, bractee involucrales interiores 5, aequales, ca 13-14 x 2-2.5 mm, lineari-lanceolati, perangustati, glabri vel setosi, cum centro fuscato, marginibus hyalinis, quam bracteis exterioribus perlongiores. Achenia ca 6-6.5 mm longa, oblanceolata, gradatim angustata ad rostrum longum; costae regulares, manifesti, cum costa mediana conspicua in uno latere, 11-12 costata in altere latere, angustata ad uterque extremitates quam centro, glabra, pallide luteo brunnea. Pappus ca 4-5 mm, pallide albida.

Holotypus lectus: INDIA: Kashmir: Degwan B. M. Wadhwa 67012A et positus in CAL.

***Lactuca kashmiriana* sp. nov.**

Allied to *Lactuca decipiens* Clarke, but

¹ Accepted January 1986.

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NEW DESCRIPTIONS



Figs. 1-4. *Lactuca kashmiriana* sp. nov.

1. Habit; 2. (a) Achene (ventral side); 2. (b) Achene (dorsal side); 3. Outer involucre bracts; 4. Inner involucre bracts.

differs in having much smaller outer involucral bracts, inner involucral bracts dark in the centre with hyaline margins; achenes gradually narrowed to a long beak with distinct and regular ribs on both sides.

Perennial herbs. stem c. 60-80 cm high, erect, glabrous paniculately branched above. Leaves c. 4-5 x 3-5 cm many from base to middle of the stem mixed with number of smaller leaves at the axils of broader leaves, lower and upper middle leaves with long and winged petiole, membranous, cordate or deltoid, variously toothed, sagittate or auricled, upper most sharply serrate, ovate or hastate. Inflorescence paniculately branched. Heads c. 13-14 x 1-2.5 mm, on terminal branches drooping, narrow, cylindric, 2-3 flowered, peduncle small, slender, glabrous, nodding, florets all ligulate, ligule purple or blue. Outer involucral bracts c. 1-1.5 x 0.5-1 mm ovate, inner involucral bracts 5, equal c. 13-14 x 2-2.5 mm linear lanceolate, much narrowed glabrous or bristly hairy with darker centre and hyalined margins, much longer than the outer bracts. Achenes c. 6-6.5 mm long oblanceolate gradually narrowed to a long beak, ribs regular, distinct with a conspicuous mid rib on one side, 11-12 ribbed on other side, narrowed at both ends from the middle, glabrous, pale yellowish brown slightly larger than the pappus c. 4-5 mm pale whitish.

Fls. & Frts.: September.

Specimen studied: Holotype: India, Kashmir: Degwan B. M. Wadhwa 67012A (CAL); Isotype B. M. Wadhwa 67012B (BSD).

Remarks: Erect perennial herbs, florets purple or blue. This species is very distinct from all other species of *Lactuca* but shows slight resemblances to *L. decipiens* Clarke; however it can be separated as follows.

- A. Outer involucral bracts c. 4-6.5 x 1.5-2.5 mm unequal half of the length of the inner bracts, inner involucral bracts much broad bristly hairy uniform in colour. Achene abruptly narrowed into small beak more or less glabrous or very sparsely hairy, ribs not very distinct. Blackish Brown. *Lactuca decipiens*
- B. Outer involucral bracts c. 1-1.5 x 0.5-1 mm all equal much smaller than the inner one; inner involucral bracts very narrow glabrous or sparsely bristly hairy with dark centre and hyaline margins. Achenes gradually narrowed into a long beak, glabrous, ribs distinct regular, yellowish brown. *Lactuca kashmiriana*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the Director, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah for facilities and to Dr. N. C. Majumdar, Regional Botanist, Botanical Survey of India, Dehra Dun for Latin translation. The Senior author is also grateful to Director, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah for providing a research fellowship.